

VINDICATION

OF

Sir Thomas Player,

AND THOSE

LOYAL CITIZENS

Concerned with Him :

In a Seasonable REPLY

TO

A late Sawcy and Dangerous Pamphlet, pretending to be
AN ANSWER to the said Sir Thomas's Speech.

—Sir, By your Priesthood tell us who you are ?

Doctor Donn.

THE disguis'd Author of this scurrilous Libel (for 'tis no less in Effect upon the whole City) calls himself *A Citizen*, and were he so, That Epithet of *Unworthy*, which himself puts to it, would most meritoriously suit him. But there is good Reason from the matter, manner, and timing of his Pamphlet to believe him rather some *Ghostly Citizen* of Rome, A Papist in Masquerade, one of those restless Traitorous Make-bates, who in a thousand shapes make it their Business Night and Day, for the hiding, or shuffling off, all prosecution against their Damnable Plot, to Involve not only this City, but all the Three Kingdoms in fresh Combustions, and Lull us asleep in supposed Security, till these Popish Butchers may gain an opportunity to Erect their old Parisian Shambles in our London-streets. He calls his Paper-Fire-ball, *An Answer to that Excellent and Elegant Speech of the Worthy Chamberlain, &c.* Here's Jacob's voice, but Esau's hands, which speaks him the right Spawn of Judas, that would betray and murder this Honourable Gentleman's Fame, with an *Hasil Master*, and a *Kiss*.

But let us Review the Business—This Worthy Patriot Sir T.P. (Posterity shall call him so in Earnest, which this infamous Incendiary does but Sarcastically) taking notice of the Eminent danger that this City (the best Bulwark of the Protestant Religion under His Sacred Majesty, whom God long preserve) is in, by the horrid Popish Plot, which 'tis apparent is still driving on Jehu's pace, and the Conspirators as audacious as ever (manifest by their Carriage and swarms of Insolent Papers daily scattered abroad, especially having taken fresh Encouragements from some late Transactions) and being Importuned to this necessary service by a considerable part of the most able and judicious Citizens, did at their Request Condescend in a modest respective way to Represent such their Just Apprehensions to the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen ; which he performed with weighty Reasons, and without Reflections—Now what has the unknown H. B. to say a gainst All this ?

His first Carp is at the Manner of the Address, because so well attended : This he impudently says, *looks like a tumultuous Number of Apprentices doing Execution upon Bawdy-houses* (The man sure is afraid his Mother, the old Whore of Rome, should receive some prejudice by it.) But what pretence is there for this scandal ? Is every large Assembly a Tumult ? in good time he'll call our Parliaments Riots, our Courts of Judicature, shall be Indicted for Riots, and

my Lord Mayors Show rigmatized for a Conventicle. What resemblance had the appearance of so many Grave Citizens to an Hubbub of Preenuses ? or a peaceable humble Application to their Chief Magistrates, to the madness of pulling down Brothel-houses ? But here's the knack on't, had Sir T. come alone, or with a few, then it had been an Inconsiderable Capricio of his, or their single Heads ; Now he went so honourably accompanied, it must be *desam'd* as a Tumult. 'Tis plain therefore, That 'tis the Manner, not the Manner that sticks in our Unworthy Respondents Gizzard, and so let that *Thou* be next Considered ; Only by the way take notice, That his *prattle* of an old Grudge is a slander equally malicious and silly ; For Sir Thomas is well known to be a person both most loyal and Discreet than to maintain a particular Controversie with such Superiours, and of such good nature and zeal to his Country, as to postpone private Resentments (were there any Reason for them) and not Intermix them with the Concerns of the Publick.

As to the Matter, he wilfully mistakes it. The Libelling Intelligencer, was only an occasional Circumstance, and yet even That deserv'd a Publick Animadversion ; For being false, how otherwise could the City secure themselves in other future Cases from the Calumnies of every daring Pamphleteer ?

'Tis acknowledged the City and Nation did formerly Congratulate His Royal Highness for His Services at Sea, and we hope still conserve an honourable and respectful Memory thereof ; and for His Person as the sole Brother of their King : But 'tis conceiv'd the present Case was somewhat different ; For His Highness being commanded away by His Majesties Express Order, and His Return being (as was signified to the Lord Mayor from Court) unexpected, it might be very undecent for them in a solemn manner to complement His Arrival (under such Circumstances) till they knew whether the same Agreed with their Sovereign's good liking.

Nor did the Calumniated Address Intermeddle with His Highness's Title, (That's left with all dutiful observance to His Majesties great Wildom in Parliament) much less insinuate any Malice in His Royal Breast against the Metropolis of His Brothers (and Sovereigns) Kingdoms, as this Incurable Libeller villainously suggests.

But since 'twas not impossible, that the bold Popish Conspirators taking Encouragement where none might be given, and to prevent the (to them only dreadful) Access

of the Approaching Parliament, might, in such a Juncture, assume the Confidence (for the Malice they never want) to Attempt the putting their Long-barch'd Bloody Designs against this City, and the Protestant Religion, into Execution; it was therefore, submissively offered to Consideration, Whether stricter Guards might not be Necessary?

NIMIA CAUTELA NON NOCET
The Eyes of the Nation, ever since the Detection of the late (we may say still present) Conspiracy, have been fix'd upon London, from thence they usually take their Measures; and if this City should now (when the Danger is no whit abated, but rather seems increased) decline in their Vigilance, it might occasion such a general Embargo, as may readily Expose us to the Ill-wishes, and too far Temp' the bad Practices of the profest Enemies of our Peace, both at Home and Abroad.

The Respondent talks of some (whom he seems to distinguish from Papists amongst us, *That are for, they can't speak of themselves than well of our most Gracious King, and have Admiration of Enslaving us, &c.* If he know them, why does he not, like a good Subject, detect them particularly? If he do not know them, why does he amuse the People, and go about to sow Seeds of Division and Rancor amongst Protestants? That there is a Plot of the Papists on foot, is certain. He undoubtedly has a hand, at least an beam in it, that goes about by any extenuating Art, to make it disbelieved. But that any others have any Design against the Government, there is neither Proof, nor Credibility, only Imagination and Surmise. Nothing indeed but a Collateral New Popish Plot, to divert us from the thoughts of, and to palliate and continue their Old One.

Our Author, next (though quite besides his Text) falls foul on the whole City (his Quarrel with Sir Thomas, and all the rest of that Honourable Corporation (you may hence perceive, is at bottom, the same) he Arraigns them of Arbitrary Government. But how does he justify this Charge? The Usages of this City are confirmed by almost as many Acts of Parliament, as Magna Charta it self; and all the knowing World have applauded the Justice, Moderation, and Prudence of their Customs. But Four or Five Hundred Pounds apiece is got by Chusing Sheriffs, that will not hold. Where's the wrong? They are liable to the Office, or else they may discharge themselves; and if for such Sums they may (with Honour) be acquitted of three times the Charge necessarily attending the Duty, how are they Injur'd? Who are the Gentlemen editors, that have complain'd of this Grievance? And if none have, what regard is to be had to this Varlets Murmurs, who, 'tis probable, was never yet capable of the Office of a Scavenger.

But many Young Citizens are Undone, by Monies paid for coming upon the Livory. 'Tis believ'd he cannot name one merely on that account. Each Company in this, pursues its ancient method; there are (if I mistake not) fixed Rules for this matter, he that is not capable, may avoid it; and those that are considering future Advantages, do rarely repent it. But suppose all this were as true, as 'tis false and groundless, what contributes it to an Answer to Sir Thomas Player's Speech? Only this, Sirs! The Hated Heterodox City must be rendered odious and contemptible at any rates; and if we can but create Factions amongst them, our Catholick Work is done.

But now the Serpents Sting begins to appear in the Tail of the Label; Your Guards must down, and why, I pray? They are Unnecessary, Illegal, and Dangerous? 'Tis roundly said, but not squarely prov'd; give us Leave then, (or at least I hope we shall take it) to consider a little.

The Man is angry, That our Militia is rais'd, and the City made a Garrison, for Preservation of the King's Person. Yet confesses the King thank'd the City for doing it. To which let me add, That the late Parliament were pleas'd to express their very grateful Resentments thereof; Does not then this Respectful Lurking Scribber, shew himself an open Enemy to the King and People, that dares Reprehend, what such awful Authority both allow'd, and highly approv'd?

But oh the Charge! the Charge! 'Tis little (quoth he) to us that are the PRINCIPAL MEN, but the poor Tradesmen had more need be minding their Business. You are then one of our Principal Men, God defend us from such, either Principals or Accessories; yet a Principal you may be, for I remember there are no Accessories in Treason. Come, Sir! we are well content to be at the Charge, Volens non sit Injuria. We know what you would be at, you would have us be Niggards of our Money, that you may be prodigal of our Blood.

This necessary Caution and Discipline, is far from Debauching our Servants, or City-Youth, most House-keepers

now going out in person; and would more freely do it, were there actual Service for their King and Country, when their Lives, Estates, Wives, Posterity, Liberties, All, were at stake: And you mistake egregiously, if you think our City-Guards, a Black-Heath Camp; our meanest persons, his true, will hereby be rendered fit for any of your Popish Rebellions, that is, to crush them, try when you dare.

In the next Paragraph, our crafty Author turns Testifier, and will prove by Dint of Law, That we ought to sit still, and have our Houses fix'd about our Ears, and our Throats decently Cut, whenever his Popish Ruffians please to do it, without offering any Guard at all to prevent them; To this purpose he cites two Statutes, one that now signifies nothing, the other nothing to his purpose.

The Act 14 Car. 2. Car. 3. does indeed Regulate the Militia, and directs that the ORDINARY [pray mark] Exercises or Musters shall be but so oft in the year, and continue but so time or four days at a time; And that in case of Invasion, Rebellion, or Insurrection, when they are to march, and lie, but constantly and continually from their Habitations, the Soldiers are to have a Months Pay, which is to be paid by the King, &c.

But as the City of London is not in all things still tyed up by the Rules of that Act, but left in many Cases to its ancient Usages, as by the Act it self appears, in regard of EXTRAORDINARY DUTIES. So neither doth this Act in any kind prohibit their present keeping up their Guards, for how vastly different is an ORDINARY Muster, from this Extraordinary Occasion; and the marching abroad, and being in a Camp continually, and the Guarding the City at home by Turns, one Day or Night in so long time, which is customary to be done, in Times of Danger, by the Burgers of all the Cities of the World? Here's a Rebellion actually begun, in the Murder of an Eminent Magistrate; The King's Sacred Life sought to be taken away by Shot, by Poylon, and by Stabbing; Commissions granted out to Levy War against Him; An Insurrection every moment ready to break out at Home; An Invasion threaten'd and design'd from abroad; The Conspirators resolv'd to root out our Religion, burn our Houses (as once they have done already); Rifle our Estates, and Murder our Persons, our Wives and Children, by a general Massacre: And was it not time then to stand upon our Guard? And if the same Hellish Design be carried on as vigorously as ever, is this then a time to lessen our Security? Did I say the Act does not prohibit such our Guards, in truth it allows and confirms them in such a Juncture, by express, though general terms. For these are the words.—In regard of the Extraordinary Duties which the Forces of the said City have been, and MAY AGAIN [pray observe] be put to, for the Safety of His Majesties Person, and for Suppressing, or PREVENTING of Insurrections; There is a special Provision that they may raise Money, &c.

So much for his Law, but would you know his Policy? 'Tis just the same with the Wolves in the Fable, who, upon a Treaty of Peace with the Sheep, would needs have one Article to be, That they should dismiss their Dogs; this was no sooner yielded to, but presently the Wolves, notwithstanding the League, fell upon them, & worried them.

The rest of his Sheet consists of Wheedle and Lullabies, You will never thrive in the City, whil' you amuse your selves with these kind of Fears. What kind of Fears, Sir? Both the King and Two Parliaments have thought them just Ones, and the English of your Rhetorick is no more but this, Pray lie still good People, you will never thrive, unless you give us Leave to cut your Throats. We do, Sir! Trust God and the King with the Government, who, we doubt not, will defend it against all your Machinations, and therefore we would not be wanting in our Duty, to endeavor its preservation in our particular stations. You say, When there is Danger, we shall hear of it TIME ENOUGH; I am glad that you will give us fair warning, and doubt not but we shall be provided for you. But have we not sufficiently heard of Danger already? What mean all those reiterated Royal Proclamations, repeated Votes of Parliament, &c? Or have you some further and yet unseen Danger to bring upon us? We have neither the Vanity to expect, nor the Ambition to wish to be of His Majesties Privy Council; yet would approve our selves, good, dutiful and vigilant Subjects, by endeavouring all that lies in our power, for the Safety of His Person, and the Tranquility of the Nation. And this Duty the City, (as we humbly conceive and think, hath been demonstrated) cannot sufficiently discharge, nor answer in point of Loyalty and Prudence, if they do not keep up competent Guards in a time of such Eminent Danger.

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